

Friendship Magazine

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Year 101, Issue 1
February 2012

The English News Magazine of the Diocese of Taiwan



Bishop's Letter

Firstly may I wish you all a very happy New Year for 2012. Thanks and praise be to Almighty God for the past year and for His blessings and guidance throughout 2011.

This year we can also praise the Lord because in 2012 the Taiwan Episcopal Church will be hosting the annual ecumenical sports day. This has now been running for 10 years, and we have played a large role in its promotion and success. In the 2011 sports day, we came second overall! This is our diocesan team in the photo.

December 2011 marked the end of our six-year program of Sunday Text Exams, and we are full of gratitude to God for the successful completion of this program. It is wonderful that more than a third of all our church members took part in this program over the six years, and they were encouraged and supported by all our clergy. I believe that this kind of training and examination program has strengthened and equipped our laity in their spiritual lives. It has also equipped them to proclaim the Good News, and strengthened their personal witness and reaching out to others.

When our church members are spiritually deeply rooted in God's word and commands, then I know that our faith will grow and our church will be an effective witness



Taiwan Episcopal Church Sports Team at the annual ecumenical Sports Day, November 12, 2011

in the community. This program will help our 2012 Diocesan Mission Goal which is that the 'whole church serves together'.

We are so blessed because the God we worship and serve is an everlasting and almighty God. The Bible's teaching is eternal truth, and the commandments and teaching are important for us to follow. Even so, our power and abilities are so limited; it is impossible for us to comprehend God's unlimited and eternal power. God moves faster than the speed of light, he is more powerful than all the nuclear power in the world, and he never takes a break, so his mercy, grace and miracles continue everywhere, every day, now and forever.

I thank the Lord that in the last few months three new priests have been ordained in our diocese. On October 28, 2011, Rev. Julia Lin was ordained, followed by Rev. Simon Tsou and Rev. Philip Ho on the Feast of Epiphany, January 6, 2012. I am so pleased because in the sovereignty of God, we now have three new loyal servants of the Lord serving Him faithfully in their churches in our diocese.

Our faith experience shows us that baptism is the beginning of our faith journey; but baptism in itself does not automatically make us faithful and loyal servants of the Lord. We need to work on our faith, to grow in the faith and to become mature Chris-

tians. At the start of this new year, let us resolve to truly trust in God and obey his teaching. May our words and actions match together in witness to Him. May we constantly review and renew our faith and witness. In our daily lives, we should truly care and be concerned for our neighbors, and have a lively witness in our interaction with others. It is in our neighborhood, in our workplace, whether among enemies or friends, that really tests our humble obedience and walking in the way and in the truth of the Lord. We pray that God's Holy Spirit will help us in our daily witness and walk with Him.

For our clergy, it is their responsibility as loyal servants of the Lord to show God's love to His sheep, our church members. Our clergy need to feed them spiritual food and to be concerned with their spiritual lives. I pray that each one will do their duty and do their best to be a loyal servant of the Lord.

I also thank God that from October 3-8, 2012, the Diocese of Taiwan will be hosting the CCEA (Council of Churches of East Asia) Full Assembly. It will be a wonderful chance to let all the bishops and delegates to learn about our ministry and our situation in Taiwan.

Happy New Year to you all!



Bishop Lai led an ecumenical group of 25 clergy and 30 laity to pay a non-political visit to The President of Taiwan, President Ma Ying-Jiu on December 6, 2011

News from the Diocese

Bishop and Lily Lai, together with diocesan representatives, attended the CCEA (Council of Churches of East Asia) Full Assembly held in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia, from October 5-10, 2011.

The Diocese of Taiwan was pleased to welcome the visit of 25 members of the Hong Kong Anglican Church Women's League from November 1-4, 2011.

Visitors from The Episcopal Church, Mr. Peter Ng, Rev. Mark Richardson, Ms. Sally Johnson and Ms. Mimi Wu visited the Diocese of Taiwan in the first week of November 2011 (see photo below of them visiting St. John's University).



Mrs. Chia Yeo-Choung 賈胡佑瓊師母, widow of Rev. Chia Meng-Jiu 賈夢九牧師, former dean of St. John's Cathedral, died on November 6, 2011, aged 89 years.

The Diocese of Taiwan autumn clergy retreat was held from November 7-9 in Jiao-Si Hot Spring Resort, Ilan County.



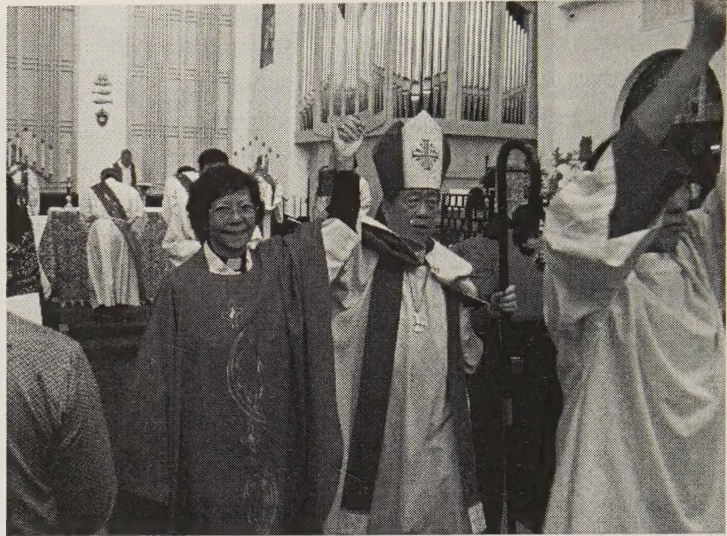
We were pleased to welcome Rt. Rev. Roger Chung Jaomalaza, formerly Bishop of Antsiranana, Madagascar, Province of the Indian Ocean, together with his wife Alice, originally from Pingtung, Taiwan, and their younger son, Alex; here to visit Alice's parents and to celebrate her parents' 65th wedding anniversary. While they were here, they attended the ordination service in St. Timothy's Church on January 6, and also visited Taipei and St. John's University (see photo above).

Bishop Lai has been invited by Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori to represent her at the installation of the Rt. Rev. Datuk Bolly Lapok as the new Archbishop of S. E. Asia. The installation is to be held in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia on February 12, 2012.

The Diocese of Taiwan is delighted to welcome Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, together with her husband, and also Mr. Peter Ng, visiting Taiwan at the end of February, and staying on to attend the opening day of our annual diocesan convention on March 2.

Diocese of Taiwan Ordinations

Rev. Julia Lin (right photo), based at St. Stephen's Mission, Keelung, was ordained priest on Friday October 28, 2011 in St. John's Cathedral. The children's choir from St. Stephen's Mission sang and a large number of church members from all over northern Taiwan attended the service.



Rev. Simon Tsou, based at St. Peter's Church, Chia-Yi, and Rev. Philip Ho, based at St. Paul's Church, Kaohsiung, were ordained priests on Friday January 6, 2012 in St. Timothy's Church, Kaohsiung (left photo). The choir of St. Paul's Kindergarten sang, and St. Peter's Church Chia-Yi prepared a song that they sang during the refreshments.

The clergy group photo below, taken at the St. Timothy's Church ordination service, also includes visiting Bishop Roger Chung Jaomalaza.

Congratulations to all three new priests, and please pray for them and their families!



Hong Kong Ming-Hua Theological College 香港明華神學院隨記

Rev. Sam Cheng Ching-San 鄭慶三牧師

Firstly I want to thank Bishop Lai for giving me this wonderful opportunity to spend a term at Ming-Hua Theological College, Hong Kong. I grew so much through the experience and it really broadened my horizons and world-view. I had the chance to experience for myself the rich and deep fellowship of the Anglican Communion, and to share in the liturgy. I learned much and am full of thanksgiving.

The main purpose of my term there was to learn more of worship and liturgy, but I also had a rare opportunity to learn many other things too. I chose to study some Old and New Testament theology, religious education and English classes. In total I took about 20 hours of classes a week, so my days were quite full!

For the 3 months that I was in Hong Kong I worshiped and helped in St John's Cathedral, and received the warm welcome and care of all the church members. I also attended the centenary celebrations of St. Paul's Church, ordination services for the Diocese of Eastern Kowloon and for the Diocese of Hong Kong Island, and was invited by the Archbishop to attend the provincial clergy retreat. Because of all these activities, I feel that my relationship with the clergy of Hong Kong is warm and close; and I am sure that the relationship between Hong Kong and Taiwan churches can become even closer in the future.



I feel that Ming-Hua Theological College is a place where students from Mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan can all come together in harmony.

Some of the Hong Kong students even offered to accompany me to visit churches in Macau (see photos). Visiting

clergy and professors from Mainland China, together with students from Hong Kong and myself from Taiwan all had opportunities to share, eat and worship together.



In God's kingdom we are all of one heart and mind. Three months is not too long, not too short, just the right amount of time for my experiences to make a deep and lasting impression on me. This program to let Taiwan clergy experience fellowship with Christians overseas, to see and learn something new, and to let God's love bring us together in close fellowship in Him is a wonderful testimony. I am full of thanksgiving to Bishop Lai and to Archbishop Paul Kwong of Hong Kong for giving me this opportunity.

香港聖公會婦女總團 HKSCH Hong Kong Anglican Church Women's League

'A Wonderful Journey of Learning' - Visit to Taiwan (November 1-4, 2011)

By Mrs. Betty Chan Lam Lai King, Chairperson

(Translated by Amy Wang, St. James' Church, Taichung)

As a group of 25 people from the Hong Kong Women's League, led by the chaplain, the Rev. Peter Cheng Sau Ting (總團團牧鄭守定牧師), Consultant Rev. Mary Au Yuk Kwan (區玉君牧師) and Rev. Cindy Kwok Che Chin (郭志芊牧師), we arrived in Taipei and started our long-anticipated visit to Taiwan. 'Go Out from Hong Kong; Face the Whole World' is our goal (set in 2005), so here we were fulfilling that goal! We are very grateful for God's grace, for Bishop Lai's invitation and for all the wonderful arrangements he made for us; so we were able to enjoy this process of great learning and the delightful time spent with brothers and sisters in Taiwan.

Upon our arrival at St. John Cathedral, it was raining hard yet we were soon taken care of with um-



brellas carried by some loving Christian sisters who welcomed us. We reminded ourselves of the Chinese joke "whenever VIPs go on tour, it rains", just as Bishop Lai shook hands with each of us. Stepping onto the red carpet leading into the Cathedral, we were awed by the beautiful paintings on the windows of both

sides of the wall, and one by one, we encountered the entire gospel of Jesus in picture form.

Many women gathered at the cathedral that day in our honour, and we were delighted to have drums played for us by another group meeting in the cathedral for fellowship. At the gathering we also met the pastors and ladies from St. Stephen's Mission, the Church of the Good Shepherd, and Advent Church. Our Women's League leader, Mrs. Chan Lam Lai King (陳林麗琮女士), utilized the resources





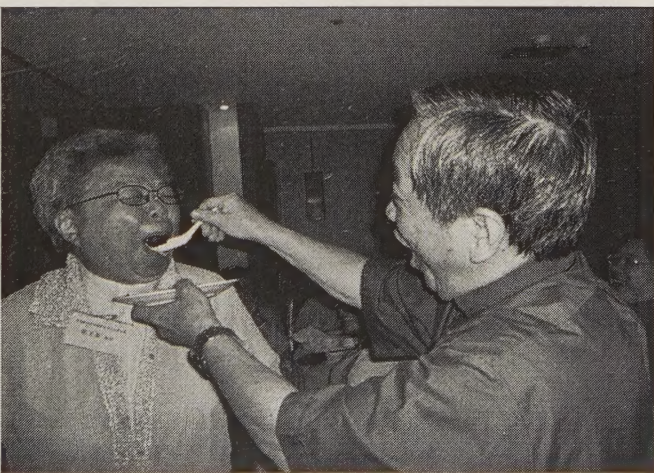
on-line <http://womenleague.hkskh.org> to give an introduction of the purpose and service of HKSKH to enhance the mutual understanding between the church in Taiwan and Hong Kong. I think that this definitely will strengthen our relationship in the future.

HKSKH is an independent women's organization within the Hong Kong Anglican Church. Historically, the US Episcopal Church started the Women Assisting Evangelical Association (上海婦女聯合事工分會) in Shanghai in 1892; and in 1946, we pioneered the Women's Service League for the Diocese of Hong Kong and Macau (港澳教區婦女服務團). Hong Kong later became a diocese and then a province, and by the guidance of our Lord, our League continues to serve according to its original purpose, to spread the gospel and serve society. In 2005, at the invitation of the Episcopal Church in the USA, we sent some young professional women to attend the UN Women's Conference which has broadened

our world view. Furthermore, in 2007, we helped out in mountainous areas of Guizhou, China (大陸貴州) digging wells in order to improve the living standards of the local people.

One special event happened on our first evening in Taiwan. It happened to be Pastor Au's (區牧師) birthday and she got a birthday surprise from Bishop Lai! We sang her the birthday song and fed her many pieces of cake (see photos below)! Her birthday gift was a St. John's Cathedral Gold Coin from Bishop Lai. Later in the evening, she was even taken to a superb concert!

Being a kind and friendly person, Bishop Lai enjoyed making tea for us. He enjoys the art of tea, and has come up with a philosophy through the daily practice of the Art of Tea: using clean water as a symbol of living water; quietness, waiting on God; fragrance as the fragrance of Jesus!





The second-day was sightseeing at Yei-Liu (野柳), and then shopping in Jiu-Fen (九份). Yei-Liu is well-known for its odd-shaped rocks and cliffs along the seashore that have inspired many names, The Queen's Head, Mushrooms etc. A strong NE wind blew against the sea which kept dashing upon the cliffs and rocks and broke into layers and layers of wavy tides. It reminded us of Father God's magnificent work in nature!

We spent the third day visiting the Church of the Good Shepherd and Advent Church. At Good Shepherd Church we had fun singing a song with Pastor Cheng, the words of the song were "The Cross Represents My Heart" but actually the words borrow the melody of a pop song "The Moon Represents My Heart"! Then we visited Advent Church located on the campus of St. John's University. Once again, we were warmly taken care of by Rev. Lennon Y. R Chang and his wife with some lavish fruit treats.

The unique style of each church demonstrates the essence of the beauty of religion, art and culture. In

addition to our delight in the aesthetic sense of the outward forms of those churches, we also experienced the precious spirit and friendship from the Christians in the Taiwan Episcopal Church. We believe this mutual understanding can lead us to go to every corner of the world! May we embody the way of the lilies of the fields, as His simple, humble little creatures, following our Lord and the commission of the apostles in serving people and spreading the gospel.



On our way home to the airport, we received another surprise gift: a brightly-colored rainbow in the sky! While we were watching, wow, a double rainbow appeared, one embracing the other! I was really amazed at the sight. I felt that this represents how our respective churches on each side of the Taiwan Strait will embrace each other closely in the future. Sisters, we surely will put our goal into practice: "Go Out from Hong Kong; Face the Whole World"!



Report on the response to the earthquake and tsunami in northern Japan.

Activity review report for first six months (end of September 2011)

by Shinya Samuel Yawata, Secretary, PIM NSKK

After the tragedy in northern Japan, the Diocese of Taiwan raised the grand total of US\$ 35,000 from churches and individuals, and sent it as a donation to NSKK for their relief ministry. The full report is available through the NSKK website: <http://www.nskk.org/walk/en/index.html>

Right after the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, individual dioceses started working in the area; particularly the Diocese of Hokkaido in Kamaishi Town, Diocese of Kobe, Osaka and Kyoto in Onahama Town, Dioceses of Chubu and Tokyo in Sendai City.

Of course the Diocese of Tohoku started their own activity in spite of many difficulties such as communication (phone lines, either wired or wireless were all on hold). The first priority was the safety of personnel in the diocese, and to assess damage of churches and kindergarten buildings. They also set up search, relief and rehabilitation headquarters within the Diocese of Tohoku. Shortly afterwards they set up a distribution center to collect and distribute relief goods in the cathedral church building.

Most activities in the early phase were to supply emergency relief materials which were collected through donations from our parishioners or purchased. This activity lasted for at least the first two to three months. The total amount of relief goods collected in the Tohoku area during this period was about 30 metric tons. They were distributed at emergency evacuation centers, transported to individual locations, whether it was a house or a emergency shelter, and distributed at distribution centers etc regardless of whether they were parishioners or otherwise.

In May, NSKK organized the 'Issho Ni Aruko (Let's Walk Together)' Project to plan, implement, and coordinate activities which were being carried out by the dioceses. The headquarters were established in Sendai-City. We anticipate the Project to continue for at least the next two years, and very likely more to achieve full recovery.

With time, people started moving out of emergency evacuation centers which typically were large public buildings to accommodate many people, like the city hall and sports arena, and moved to temporary shelters which were built by local governments to accommodate individual families in separate apartments. This situation created another opportunity and challenge. There are some who live by themselves, with no friends nor relatives, or older people who cannot handle everyday life such as grocery shopping by themselves, or some who want to have conversation but have nobody to talk with. There are very many opportunities for us to help these people. In some areas, already specifically organized activity has started, like a community of temporary shelters in Kamaishi City and Shincchi Town.

There are a substantial number of people who were not properly cared for by local government; the Project has identified them being disabled people and non-Japanese speaking people.

To totally coordinate activities of several dioceses, Issho Ni Aruko Project was organized with representatives from the dioceses within NSKK and the Provincial Office in mid-May.

Noteworthy are the volunteering workers, there have been several organized group of volunteers from Anglican Church affiliated schools. They did all kinds of volunteering works which include debris clearing, playing with children, accompanying children for study, listening and talking with affected people particularly depressed and elderly people, going grocery shopping, taking them to doctors and city office by car, etc.

(Full report available online)



Diocese of Taiwan Autumn Clergy Retreat

By Rev. Keith Lee

The Diocese of Taiwan autumn clergy retreat was held at Living Water Hotel, Ilan from November 7-9, 2011. Unfortunately it rained every day all day during the retreat, but the hotel was very comfortable for relaxation and sharing. I believed all the clergy had a good time and rest (see group photo below).

The speaker of the retreat was Fr. Fang Chi-rung, a professor teaching and serving at Fu-Jen R. C Seminary. His specialty is Old Testament Theology, and he is fluent at speaking 9 different languages, and also Latin. He shared with all the clergy about his life experiences when he was young, and the time when he was serving at different places. We learned lots of things from him.

Some clergy also shared with all of us about the situation of their missions. We heard about discipleship training and the Alpha Course at St. John's Cathedral, the Chung-li Outreach Centre supported and developed by the Church of the Good Shepherd, the reconstruction and embellishment of Holy Trinity's building, and St. Timothy's mission program at Jia-Shian.

Even though the weather was not good, and we couldn't have sightseeing outdoors during the retreat, but we still thanked God for such a wonderful time to enable all the clergy to gather together. Sharing, joking, laughing, tea-time talking, and also praying, worshipping, and time flew. We look forward to seeing each other next time!



CCEA Full Assembly October 2012

From October 3-8, 2012, the Diocese of Taiwan is hosting the 2012 CCEA Full Assembly for bishops and delegates from each diocese in East Asia, usually about 30-40 people. We have decided to hold the conference in the Living Water Hotel, Ilan, the same location featured above. The hotel is run by a Christian couple, and has hot water spa facilities in each room with splendid views over the mountains. The town is only 40 minutes through the mountain tunnel to Taipei City, so it is very convenient, yet also very rural and quiet, the ideal location. www.living-water.com.tw

Mrs. Hsu Pai-Hui 許百惠

Chair of Diocese of Taiwan ECW (Episcopal Church Women)

and St. Timothy's Church ECW

As told to Catherine Lee

My childhood was spent in Lu-Zhu, Kaohsiung County, and my family were members of Lu-Zhu Presbyterian Church; I am a third generation Christian. Actually my father was not a Christian, but usually came to church with us, and allowed us to attend all the church activities. Throughout my childhood we spent every Sunday in church at Sunday School then later at the Youth Group, and every summer we went on all the summer camps. The fellowship in the church was very strong and our faith was very much a major part of our lives.



ever since! My husband's family runs a pharmaceutical company making medicines. We have 2 daughters, the older one graduated last year with a Masters Degree from Boston University and has returned to Taiwan, she is working in the Taipei branch office of our family company. Our younger daughter (pictured with me in the photo below) is currently studying for her master's in New York.

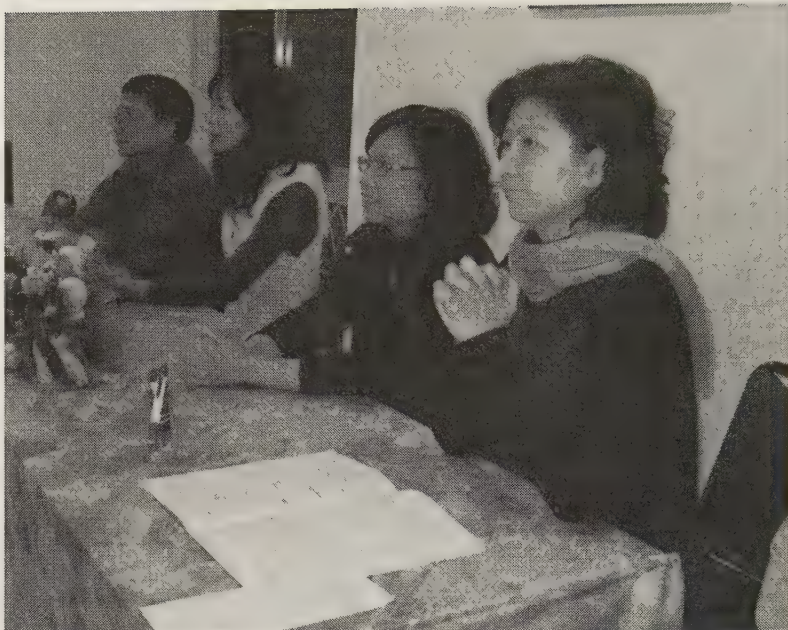
My mother hoped that I could marry a Christian, and so I was introduced to my husband. His family is very involved in the Taiwan Episcopal Church, his brother is the senior warden of St. Timothy's Church and my mother-in-law's brother is Rev. Richard Ou, one of our retired clergy. So I joined the Episcopal Church in 1983, and I have been here

After studying Home Economics in my younger years, my dream was always to open a restaurant! I was always really interested in S. E. Asian cooking, especially Thai and Indonesian food. Once my children started to grow up, I took a course of study over about 2 years, visiting Thailand about 3 times a year for 2-weekly courses learning S. E. Asian culinary skills. After finishing the course, I published a cookery book of Thai and Indonesian recipes. At the same time I got together with 2 others and together we opened 3 restaurants all specializing in Thai and Indonesian meals. We ran these successfully for 10 years from 1988-1998. But all 3 restaurants were run in rented buildings and when the landlord of one of them decided to ask for a massive increase in rent, we decided that the time had come to close the whole business. Those 10 years were a great challenge and a wonderful learning experience. In a way we had already realized our dream, so the increase in rent was a good opportunity to close one chapter of our lives and to start another.



With the closure of the business, I suddenly found myself with lots of free time! I started to attend the ECW meetings at St. Timothy's Church; in fact I started to attend nearly every meeting and every activity at St. Timothy's Church! A few years later when they needed a new chairperson for the ECW I was elected and more than willing to help. Two years ago I was also invited to become the chair of the diocesan ECW.

Every Tuesday at St. Timothy's Church, we have our weekly ECW meeting for Bible study, fellowship and prayer. On average about 15 women attend, and many have come faithfully over many years. We also reach out into the local community and arrange outings, I also teach Thai cookery classes as a means of outreach. We often go out to visit the sick, many times with our rector Rev Justin Lin; we also run the Altar Guild, help at church events (see photo right), and a small group of us are developing our sewing and embroidery skills making vestments for our clergy and altar cloths for our churches in the diocese.



St. Timothy's Church runs an outreach center at Jia-Shian, about 90 minutes drive from St. Timothy's Church, up in the mountains of Kaohsiung County. The ministry started 5 years ago, but upgraded after Typhoon Morakot in August 2009 which caused massive damage and devastation in the area. The St. Timothy's' ECW are responsible for the outreach to the women of Jia-Shian, so every week a group of us goes there for the outreach. We are based out of the outreach center we have established right opposite Jia-Shian Elementary School.



Mrs. Hsu Pai-Hui (right) and Mrs. Lily Lai (left)

This past semester we have gone early in the morning, leaving St. Timothy's at 6:20am! First we go to Jia-Shian Elementary School to teach the local children the 'Life Education' course for 30 minutes, 7:45-8:15am. Subjects include Accepting Yourself, Differences, Love, Who am I? etc and through these subjects we have opportunities to share the Gospel with the children. We teach all the classes, grades 1-6, and in each class we have 2 volunteer teachers, mostly from our ECW group. After the class, 3 of us from ECW stay on for our ECW outreach group which runs from 8:30-9:30am, usually in one of the local homes. We have Bible study, praying and sharing together. After the group, we then go to visit one or two local families. In visiting them our aim is to show our love, our care, to become their friends and to establish a long-term relationship with them. We find that this takes a long time. After a year of this program, with some we have become good friends and we find that some of them will now call us midweek if they have a problem. Our ministry is very much to accompany them on their life's journey. We organize special activities, for example at Christmas and now most of them will come along. Last summer I arranged cookery classes for the women which ran at the same time as the summer camp for the local children; and we had 8 women attending, so that was a great chance for making friends.

The problems facing the women of Jia-Shian include divorce; the father then takes responsibility for raising the children while the mother leaves the family home, but in reality it becomes the grandpar-

ents who often find they are totally responsible for raising their grandchildren. Many younger wives are from Vietnam or other S. E. Asian countries so they feel isolated and unable to communicate well or to help their children with homework. Poverty is also a big problem, but rather than bringing them material help, we are mostly showing them our love and care by giving them our time and making friends. It takes months to win their trust and to find that we are accepted. Now we have 2 families who welcome us to go to their homes and sing and pray with them. Progress is very slow; this is really a long-term program. Some of our ECW members also go to Jia-Shian on Wednesday afternoons to help the local children with their homework classes, but I can only go there once a week for 2-3 hours so I feel very limited in the amount of help I can give. Actually in the case of Jia-Shian and in our own church, we find that St. Timothy's is like a big family and many of the church and outreach activities involve the whole church. It is difficult to say what is ECW and what is not, as we all cooperate together really well!

When I first took on the diocesan role of Chair of the ECW, I decided to visit all of our churches in southern Taiwan to get to know the women in each

church. I did this by offering to teach Thai culinary skills at each church, and I was pleased that so many came along. We have a diocesan group consisting of 1 or 2 women from each of our churches, and we plan activities and training for the ECW in the diocese. We run Altar Guild training days and we are still learning about how to make vestments and altar cloths. The newly-remodeled Trinity Church in Keelung is our next project! I have also been invited to attend the 2012 General Convention in the USA as ECW delegate, and it will be good to learn from other ECW groups around the world. I am also responsible for the UTO collections and UTO grant applications from the diocese.

I am willing to do as much I can do for God and for the church. My own abilities are insufficient, I often think that I have no talents or abilities to run the ECW, but I know I just want to dedicate myself to serving God and His church. God's grace is sufficient, and I am full of thanksgiving for His help each day!



Jia-shian children's Christmas activity making gingerbread houses!

ST. TIMOTHY'S CHURCH, KAOHSIUNG

Rev. Justin Lin Jun-Ming 林俊明牧師



October 2 was our Seniors Day (長青主日); the seniors served by singing hymns during the Eucharist. On October 26 and November 30, the seniors invited their friends (from their Morning Exercise Classes) to go on an outing to the Wei-Wu-Jing Metropolitan Park (衛武營都會公園) and several well-known tourist spots such as the Moon World (月世界). They had a variety of activities including enjoying the scenery by the lake and shopping in historical streets. During this trip, this senior group even went on a Home-Visit which really blessed some of the non-believers. They were also invited to St. Timothy's for a Gospel Tea Party and Christmas activities etc. Our ministry hopefully would like to embrace more elderly people, to care for their needs, then to build a bridge between Jesus and our local people.

Our main theme for Christmas 2011 focused on "A Baby Born for Love". Various types of Christmas

'blessing activities' started from November on-wards. This Christmas we wanted to put the non-believers and their families as our central attention. For example, we held Christmas Tea Parties on December 9 and 14. On December 10, we also made it very special for different groups such as "Family Celebration" and "Youth Gospel Tea Party".

We had our Eucharist Service on Christmas Eve. Our Sunday School put on a Christmas Play, and later after the service, the entire congregation went out together, holding candles, following the Cross, and sang Christmas Carols: 'Silent Night' etc. We walked around the neighborhood of our church spreading the Good News of Jesus' Birth! On Christmas Day, December 25, the service focused on young children. During this peaceful Christmas season, we hope that Christians could experience the true meaning of Salvation in depth, and put our understanding into action.

Our Youth Group has spent the whole semester studying the materials of "Kingdom Passport" and having a hands-on experience of the Apostles Creed. Thus they can fully become aware of the meaning of what we confess that we believe. The leaders also benefited a great deal from the materials. In Tainan, our college students had fellowship with a focus on how to link our Christian faith and student life. They also went on an outing to "Ah-Gong-Dian Reservoir (阿公店水庫)". Starting from January 2012, our Youth Bible Study Group will study the Book of Matthew.

On December 30, our church held an special Evening Prayer service to express our gratitude at this year's end. We also showed some pictures about our church life. Dwelling on the subject of "A Time for Everything", we shared from Ecclesiastes 3:9-15 in terms of reflection of this past year and we

discovered Father God’s work and His will in each of our lives!

This is the 5th year that St Timothy’s Church has been ministering among the people in Jia-Shian area (甲仙). Our pace may appear to be slow yet we have found a more profound meaning in attempting to cultivate friendship with the children whom we serve and how much it means to them that we are so sincerely willing to keep them company. In our Life Education at the local school, we feel grateful not just because we have brothers and sisters to continually help out but also we have built up a fellowship together. In our Outreach Center, we witness these children growing and learning, and the change that God has made in their lives. On December 17, we held a Jia-Shian Christmas Tea Party. All our Christian workers put these activities together: a Christmas Play, Gingerbread baking, and a delicious lunch! In this selfless teamwork, we felt that the presence and love of God has already dwelled among us!

On October 23, our sister, Su Shuan-Ping (蘇軒平) and a child, Chen Kein (陳肯) were baptized; later on November 13 Mr. Tsai Shi-Wei (蔡世偉); Wang Shuan-Ming (王宣閔); Tien Gau-Fa (田國發) and

Su Shuan-Ping (蘇軒平) had their Confirmation Service. Please pray for their spiritual life and Christian faith.

Please pray for change in terms of our organization and workload sharing: Recruiting for Adult Ministry (including Seniors, Women, Brothers and Young Adults); educating workers for Children and Youth Ministry (including college students, students, teenagers and children).

St. Timothy’s Church had a retreat (see photo below) for our core workers at “Da Hen Farm” (大漢農場). Our topic was ‘Studying the Truth’. During the mornings, we shared the book ‘Your Mind Matters’ (別埋沒你的頭腦) by John Stott. Some people also gave testimonies about their learning process. In the afternoon, we watched a movie ‘Patch Adams’ (心靈點滴) and shared our personal experience in serving our Lord.

Our church has been providing Adult Sunday School, Beginners’ Classes (初信造就) and Spiritual Groups. We expect that our church will be able to experience the Kingdom of God better, understand His language, furthermore, to gain our identity in His Kingdom and what role we can play.



(Article kindly translated by Amy Wang, St. James Church)

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, KAOHSIUNG

Rev. Philip Ho Jeng-Long 何政隆牧師

'Home, Sweet Home?' By Ms. Lin, Jia-Jing, 林佳茵 姐妹 recently baptized and confirmed at St. Paul's (photo below right). Translated by Amy Wang, St. James' Church

I was born in 1973, a week prior to the Chinese New Year. Our house then was located in Tainan County, Ho-Beah (後壁鄉). My family ran a hotel in front of the Train Station. After that, my journey of "MOVING" started: moving to the urban city from this outskirts area; to my mom's friend's home; to the north from the south for schooling; from Taiwan to Australia, then Japan! Recently, my latest move has been the easiest one because I'm back in Taiwan, managing moving on my own in the same apartment building. In total, I have moved 25 times so far, though it has not yet reached my lucky number of 38 yet!

'Where is the place I can call HOME'? This question has been simmering in my mind. My husband works overseas, and I have to spend years raising the children alone. Bitterness and helplessness have kept piling up inside of me. Over and over again, I need to inform family and friends of my new address, and my daughter has to keep transferring to a different school! (She is only a 5th grader yet she



has so far attended 6 different schools!) This has been an ongoing story of my 'HOME'. Every year, I would take my kids to the Cherry Blossom Festival with a grateful heart, because I never knew whether I would still be dwelling in the same area next year! Owing to 'obedience', I have to move to another new place called 'home', but I have always carried the memories of each HOME with me. They are like movies flashing through the eye of my heart!

Praise be to the Living God! He is fully aware of my situation, and that it might cause me to have a nervous breakdown if I have to repeat this same moving pattern life-long. As a weak and flickering candle light, I just hope I can continue offering some light for my husband and children.



God had mercy on me! He used the March 2011 major earthquake in Japan to awaken me. It also broke my PRIDE into pieces... An 'unknown power' forced me to leave everything behind in Japan; I immediately flew back to Taiwan. And now

I am so thankful because in all this, I realize God had a plan for me. I have found a 'HOME'—that is, this Temple of Almighty God. His temple is an eternal HOME that I shall never move away from. My heart is filled with such a peace because I will dwell in His temple forever. God has prepared me a place called "HOME"!

I would like to give special thanks to the St. Paul's Church family, to sister Shieh May-Yuao (謝美月) and brother Tsai (蔡弟兄). Both of them have of-

fered me warm love so that I could return to the embrace of Jesus. Moreover, I feel very grateful to the Rev. Philip Ho and his wife, Nancy, who have passed on Jesus' love to me through their joyful hearts and unceasing prayer for me. I surely have learned to give thanks for everything now!

Yes! St Paul's Church! This is my HOME. This is my family. We will learn how to love one another in returning to what Jesus has sacrificially given us--His unconditional forgiveness and eternal great love.

(Photos on these 2 pages show St. Paul's Church Advent and Christmas activities. The right photo shows Rev. Philip Ho's first Holy Communion service at St. Paul's, 2 days after his ordination as priest).



ST. MARK'S CHURCH, PING-TUNG

Rev. Keith Lee Jen-Cheng 李鎮丞牧師

The 50th anniversary of St. Mark's Church was held on December 11, 2011, the 3rd Sunday of Advent. We are very glad and honored that many of our former priests and church members (who had grown up here) came to participate in the Thanksgiving service, and gave a special address to everyone of us. On that day, Bishop Lai celebrated and preached in the service, and a confirmation was also held. Mrs. Tsai-ling Chung and Mrs. Chao-hung Kuo were confirmed by Bishop Lai.



Thanks be to God, the Rev. Charles Chen, his wife and family (including both sons and their wives), all came to participate in the service, moreover, the Rev. Stephen Kuo-hua Hu, the Rev. Samuel Liao and his spouse, and the Rev. June Chou were also present. Some of their children also grew up here in Ping-tung when they were young. After the service, we went to a restaurant nearby for a thanksgiving banquet with all of our guests and friends, to address our gratitude, and all had a warm fellowship and wonderful time.

On December 24, a Christmas evening prayer was held, and then we went outside singing Christmas songs to communities and families of church members. The next day, Christmas Day, 3 new members were baptized and welcomed into the body of Christ, they are 2 brothers, Mr. Yu Chen and Mr. Seng Chen, and Mrs. Shu-yuan Chen (see photo above). On December 31, we also had an evening prayer service to give thanks to God that the year was abundantly finished, and prayed for God's leading and blessing to be fulfilled in the next year.



St. Mark's celebrates its 50th anniversary!

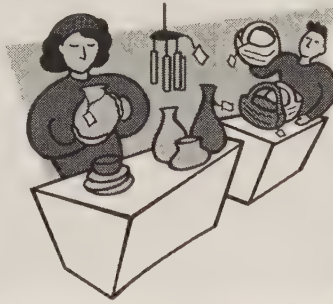
ST. ANDREW'S KINDERGARTEN, JIE-DING

Rev. Keith Lee Jen-Cheng 李鎮丞牧師

The children's weekend activity and kindergarten's religious class of this semester finished in the middle of December.

rest is to be preserved for an emergency fund to help local families in urgent need.

The Christmas fete was held on December 16, we gathered lots and lots of items for sale at a flea market, and we had more than 15 stalls selling useful goods, delicious food, and funny toys. The kindergarten children, junior high students from the community and the members from Tainan Grace Church also performed singing, dancing and drama at the same time. Bishop Lai also came to bless and gave a speech to us. The fete income was divided into two, one is to be a donation to Liu-kuei Children's Home, and the



During the past months, we have been taking care of some of our kindergarten children and their families, especially when the child or their parents were sick or were hospitalized; we were not only offering care and concern, but also had a chance to share our Christian faith and to pray for them. Although they were all not Christians, but they were all glad to receive this care, and we believe that it is a good way and a nice start for our mission.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, KANG-SHAN

Rev. Leo Tzeng Wen-Bin 曾文斌牧師

We had 2 Family Services from 3.00-5.00 pm on December 3 and on December 10, altogether we had about 35 people attend.

For the past 3 years before Christmas, in the nearby community center we have proclaimed the good news, namely "The Good News of Christmas" for the local people in the neighborhood. There were around 60 people who attended this activity in the morning and afternoon on December 17. On December 18, after the Sunday service, we decorated



the church with Christmas decorations. We had the Christmas Eve Service at 8:00 pm on December 24.

On December 14, our church member Ms. Yang(楊運淑) passed away, her funeral and burial were held on January 1-2.



GRACE CHURCH, TAINAN

Rev. Sam Cheng Ching-San 鄭慶三牧師

On December 18, 2011 Bishop Lai visited Grace Church for Holy Communion, sermon and confirmation. Two people were confirmed and welcomed as members of the Taiwan Episcopal Church, one of whom is a kindergarten parent (see center photo).

On Christmas Eve we invited kindergarten parents to attend the Christmas service. At 5:30pm we started with a meal together. We were so pleased that there was a wonderful mix of church members, kindergarten children and parents who attended, 130 people in total. The kindergarten children sang, as did the Sunday School, the youth group and the adult choir. In addition, we invited our mandolin group to perform for us. It was a very joyful and peaceful celebration, praise God! (see right photo)



On Christmas Day, December 25, one of our youth group was baptized (see photo bottom left). He had attended our kindergarten as a child, then the after-school classes and now our youth group. Congratulations to him on his baptism!

We welcome back Rev. Sam Cheng from his term of study at Hong Kong Ming-Hua Theological College. He was away in Hong Kong from August 31 to December 21, 2011. We are grateful to Rev. Samuel Liao for his enthusiastic help for evangelist Mr. Joseph Ho who served here in Rev. Cheng's absence.

Please pray for Rev. Samuel Liao, who broke his upper spine in an accident at the beginning of January, and now faces 7 months of rehabilitation. Pray for his healing and also for his family at this time.



ST. PETER'S CHURCH, CHIA-YI

Rev. Simon Tsou Tsai-Shin 鄒才新牧師

Thanks be to God! We are so happy to share our report with you. The first item is that on November 22, our deacon Simon Tsou satisfied all requirements to be ordained to the priesthood, and received the sacrament of ordination at 7.00 pm on January 6, 2012, The Feast of Epiphany. A coachload of people traveled from Chia-Yi to attend the service. During the refreshments, our group sang a song.

We have an English Bible Study at 7.00 pm every Thursday starting from October 20. The leader is teacher Lori, she is a Episcopal Church member from Ohio state, USA. She came to Chia-yi last July, and in August she found St. Peter's Church. Even though we only have Mandarin and Taiwanese services, she has continued to participate in the Church services and fellowship. In mid-September

Singing at the ordination



we were sharing ideas, and decided we wanted to start an English Bible Study. So we started this class, and now we have 12 members participating in the class. We had a celebration dinner for the end of this semester in a restaurant. The restaurant puts on a display of art works for a month, and the artist for

Home fellowship



During the Advent season we had a home fellowship gathering at Mr. & Mrs. Chow's house, we had a nice fellowship, and then we went to a 'shabu-shabu' restaurant to eat hotpot, it was very delicious.



this month is one of our Bible Study members. She is an retired art teacher from Chia-yi vocational high school (see photos above).



We had a celebration for Christmas Eve. First, we sang Christmas carols and the Sunday school students did a show for us. That was preceded by an agape dinner, on that day we had a lot of people to join the service, may God bless us (see photo left).



Please pray for our youth work, we have a winter camp from January 18-20, inviting junior and senior high school students to join this camp, and the young people from Good Shepherd Church, they have 10 youth coming to help us to serve these students.

ST. JAMES' CHURCH, TAICHUNG

Rev. Charles Chen Chin-Ti, Rector Emeritus 陳金地顧問牧師

Rev. Philip Lin Li-Feng 林立峰牧師

We have many activities here at St. James' Church (right photo shows the Saturday afternoon women's group). We have 2 cell groups and this past semester we have been learning about welcoming newcomers. One of our home group members, Mr. Kao, moved his company to a new location, and on November 19, a group of 18 of us (including Bishop and Mrs. Lai) went to his new company for a service of blessing.



On Sunday November 27, we invited a Christian association to come and speak to us about stewardship and money management. The General Secretary spoke during our Sunday service, then in the afternoon, consultant Mr. Yang shared with us on the same subject. 28 people attended the speech.

On December 10, the youth group from St. James' together with the Champions Course leaders put on a Christmas Party for 12 junior high school students at the Church of the Leading Star.

On December 17, the St. James' Kindergarten invited its former students to return to St. James' for scholarship presentations and evangelistic outreach.



A total of 373 young people and children came to this occasion and received scholarships to encourage them in their studies. This included: Elementary school: 228, junior-high: 66, senior-high: 30, college: 30, masters: 16, Ph.D: 3.

On Christmas Eve, December 24, we held a combined service for Chinese and English congregations, with Rev. Charles Chen preaching (see photo bottom left). 143 people attended the service. On Christmas Day, December 25, we held a joint service for the Chinese congregation and the Church of the Leading Star at St. James'. 10 people from Church of the Leading Star attended, and a total of 3 people were baptized. 170 people attended, and after the service, we had a special Christmas lunch in the church grounds, with 18 tables, and a performance from the drum worship team.

On December 30, the Community Services Center held its end-of-semester celebration with each group showing off its talents and a gospel presentation. 280 people attended, mostly from the local community.

On New Year's Eve, December 31, our youth group met at 6:00pm for hotpot, sharing and singing. Our cell groups also met for food and for a year-end reflection. Just before midnight, Rev. Charles Chen led an evening prayer service. Then everyone from all the groups went upstairs onto the roof to join together for the New Year countdown and fireworks. A total of 33 adults and 21 youth joined the celebrations. The youth then stayed on for a sleepover at the church.

We are so pleased that 3 donors have come forward to donate the money needed for the construction of our 12th and final church in the Diocese of Central Philippines. Although we had thought that we had already completed this project, there was still one church left unfinished due to a land dispute. We have now been able to send the money to buy a new plot of land and we expect construction of the church, St. Gregory's' Church, Manila, to be started soon, and hopefully completed before the typhoon season.

St. James' English Congregation, by Warren Sevander

Greetings from the English Language Congregation at St. James. It is not uncommon for persons involved in church work and ministry to write about how the Lord is blessing their ministries, especially during this special time of the year. And, for the English language congregation, we are no exception. These past weeks have pointed us in the direction of Jesus and being focused upon Jesus. Our Advent readings helped to prepare us for celebrating the birth of our Lord. And, that is what I emphasized when preaching during Advent: preparing ourselves for celebrating Jesus' birth.

As part of our participation in the combined Christmas Eve service, five of us sang a piece called

'Come with Me to Bethlehem'. It is a Bavarian children's Christmas song. Hans Geiger translated it into English, and I re-wrote that as lyrical, me-



tered poetry for us to sing in English. The symbolism was striking, to have five adults singing a song that children sing at Christmas. For all of us, as a child or as an adult, should come to Jesus with the faith and trust of a child.

On Christmas Day, the music was all famous Christmas carols. It was thrilling to 'raise the roof' in praises about the birth of our Lord. Using an example set in American television history, 'A Charlie Brown Christmas', I preached on '...What Christmas is All About'. In the afternoon, after the Chinese language service concluded, some of us took part in the Christmas Day meal together outside in St. James' courtyard. That was a time of excellent food and excellent fellowship.

On New Year's Eve, we held a vigil service (see photos), preparing for the coming of the New Year. The entire chapel was lit by candles. Rev. David Chee celebrated Holy Eucharist, and several of us ministered to each other in the form of telling stories, reading favorite passages from scripture, and singing songs. Afterwards, we gathered for a party and fellowship. (But, we did end before midnight.)

During these same weeks, the English language Bible Study has been examining the hymns of Advent,

Christmas, and Epiphany, and the Bible passages these hymns are based on. We also watched a short video clip from the famous movie 'It's A Wonderful Life'. As part of the time we spent studying Epiphany, we read a shortened version of O. Henry's famous story, 'The Gift of the Magi', and watched a video of that story. During the late autumn, we were pleased to have a young woman come to the study with her children. She wasn't a believer. Then, for some reason she stopped coming to the Bible study. We wondered what happened to her. Well, the Lord answered our questions on Christmas Day. I saw her at the all-church meal after the Chinese service on Christmas Day. She approached me with a smile and said with great joy 'thank-you for helping me'. Without our even knowing it, the Lord had used us in that Bible study. For, sometime during those 2 or 3 weeks when we did not see her, she had accepted Christ as her Savior, and then was baptized on Christmas Day. Glory to God !!

Coming to Christ and being led to the Lord: That's 'what Christmas is all about'.



ST. LUKE'S CHURCH, HUA-LIEN

Rev. Joseph Wu Ming-Long 吳明龍會吏



Deacon Joseph Wu's son, Paul is in Grade 5 of elementary school, and was invited to write the following account of the Christmas celebrations at St. Luke's (photo above). He wrote it all in English with only a few minor corrections from the editor. Well done Paul!

Christmas Party

Hello everyone! I am Paul Wu. I live in San-Chong, Taipei City. Now I want to tell you about the Christmas Party in Hua-lien at St. Luke's Church at Christmas night.

As soon as I, my friend, my father, my father's friend, my mother, my mother's friend, my younger sister and my sister's friend arrived in the Church dining room, the party started!

I ate two pieces of cake, one piece of pizza and had one cup of orange juice. My friends were laughing, because they were looking at a funny book. After the party, someone played the piano; she is a teacher at the elementary school. Then the Choir sang 'Joy to the World!', 'The First Nowell', 'Silent Night, Holy Night', 'O Come All Ye Faithful'. They sang very well!

Lastly, everyone had a picture taken in the church. And everyone left. I think this is a great party!

ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL, TAIPEI

Rev. Samuel Lin Ying-Chiou 林應求牧正



We had a wonderful and very busy Christmas weekend at St. John's Cathedral. On Christmas Eve we had a service at 7:30pm. Then on Christmas Day, December 25, we held a Praise and Worship Service in the morning, with songs from the choir, Sunday School, and specially invited guests - the St. John's Cathedral Kindergarten choir. Following the service, we held our Christmas buffet and gift-giving. About 200 people attended the buffet, thanks be to God! In the evening of Christmas Day, we held a special Christmas concert starring the Cardinal Singers, conducted by Mr. Tzeng, brother-in-law of one of our church members. The choir of about 20 people consists mostly of Fu-Jen R. C. University alumni. About 100 people attended the concert, including many visitors.

A few years ago, one of our church members, Professor Han set up a scholarship fund in memory of her mother, Han Shian-Zhe. An initial investment

of NT\$ 1 million was given and the scholarships are paid out of the interest. The fund gives scholarships to the children of clergy for their education at senior high school or university. Decisions are made by the cathedral vestry. This year, the daughter of Dean Samuel Lin and the daughter of Rev. Philip Ho were presented with their scholarships on November 27.

St. John's Cathedral was pleased to host the ordination of Rev. Julia Lin on October 28, 2011 at 7:00pm (see photo above), and also the wedding of the daughter of our senior warden, Mr. Wang Jing-Long on October 22 at 2:30pm. We also hosted the welcome gathering for the visit of the Hong Kong Anglican Church Women's League on November 1, 2011. From November 16 to December 7, 2011, one of our church members Ms. Dai Shing-Fan had an exhibition of her flower paintings on in Taipei.

Mrs. Chia Yeo-Choung, widow of Rev. Chia Meng-Jiu, former dean of St. John's Cathedral, died on November 6, 2011, aged 89 years. In recent years she had been living in a retirement home in Hualien, where she died. She was buried in the Episcopal Church cemetery in Taipei County Xindian, and her burial was organized by St. John's Cathedral.

On October 13, 2011, a baptism service was held, and 13 people were baptized, including one baby. The baby baptized (see photo right) is the daughter of our cathedral administrator, Mr. Shu. On November 27, 2011, we held a confirmation service with Bishop Lai for 7 people.

The 14th Alpha course camp was held from November 12-13 at Sacred Heart School, Ba-Li, Taipei County, 28 people attended. On December 17, we held a Thanksgiving tea party to mark the end of the 14th Alpha course.



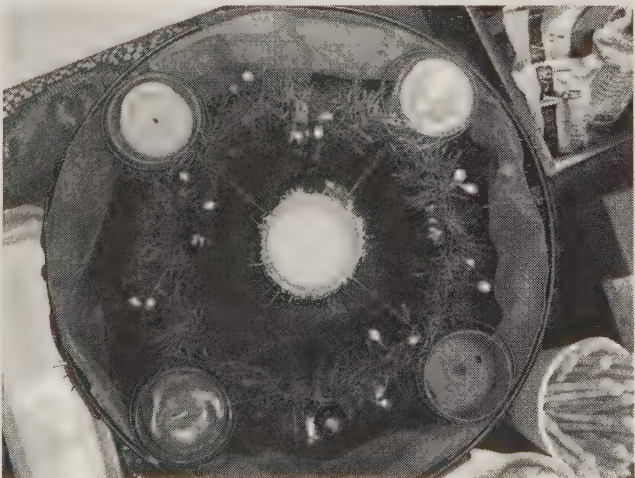
GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH, TAIPEI

Rev. Lily Chang Ling-Ling 張玲玲牧師, English Chaplain: Rev. Herbert Barker

Congratulations to Rev. Lily Chang on acceptance by Virginia Theological Seminary, USA for the D.Min course. The course of study involves at least 3 2-week sessions over the next 2 years, followed by a thesis dissertation. The first course is 2 weeks in January 2012.

During Advent, we had a series of special home fellowship services, held on the first 3 Saturdays in Advent. We have these services every year, but this year we decided that as well as a general invitation to everybody, that we would also especially invite different groups of people. At the first service, held at the home of Mrs. Chao, we invited all the Good Shepherd Kindergarten staff. The kindergarten principal and some of the staff came along

as well as all of Mrs. Chao's family and many church members. We held a short service, played some games, shared stories and then Mrs. Chao invited us all to the Vietnamese restaurant next door for a nice meal. It was a wonderful time of fellow-



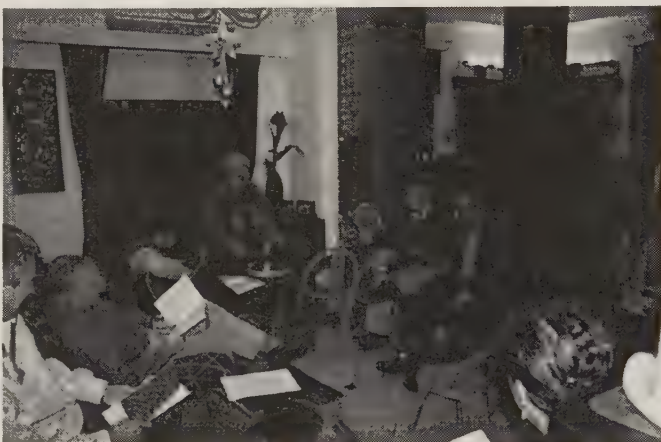


At the third Advent fellowship, held at Mr. Wang's home, we invited the social workers and seniors ministry workers. This was a wonderful way of bringing together the different groups within the Good Shepherd Church ministry.

In the morning of the third Saturday of Advent we held our annual Christmas celebration for the seniors ministry to mark the end of the semester. We had performances in the church and a nice party (see photo at bottom of page).

ship and a great start to Advent (photo above shows Mrs. Chao and her good friend Mrs. Wen, with a combined age of 168!)

At the second Advent Church home fellowship, held at Mr. Jake Hung's home, we invited the English congregation (see photo right).



Christmas Gathering of Seniors to mark the end of the semester

CHUNG-LI OUTREACH CENTER

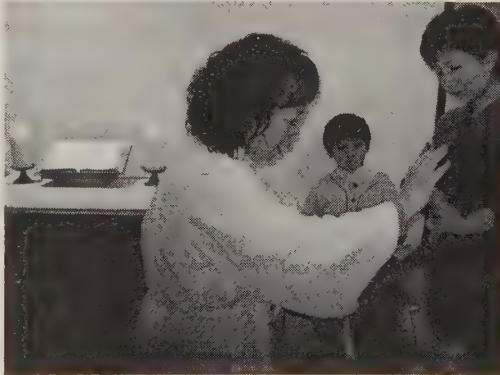


We have been holding Sunday services at our Chung-Li outreach center for over 6 months, and we now have a regular congregation with several visitors each week. On January 1, 2012 we started monthly Holy Communion services on the first Sunday of the month, the Sunday when Rev Lily Chang visits to take the service (see photo right).

We especially give thanks for our developing connection with the Chung-Li S.O.S Village. Good Shepherd has had this link for many years, and now the link between our Chung-Li center and SOS is developing well. For Thanksgiving, we held a party for them at SOS with singing and games and fun. We also attended their Christmas celebrations.

The highlight of our Christmas celebrations was Christmas Eve, when we had a meal, service, caroling outside and Santa Claus (Tim Pan, senior warden at Good Shepherd, see top photo), and over 50 people attended!

On January 1, 2012, our Chung-Li worker, Mr. Diego Liang was married to Stella, both from Good Shepherd Church. Many from the Chung-Li congregation attended the wedding and sang a song, while one of our congregation, Esther Wang danced during the service (see photo below).



Please pray for us and our outreach ministry in Chung-Li. We have outings, groups and activities all week long, please

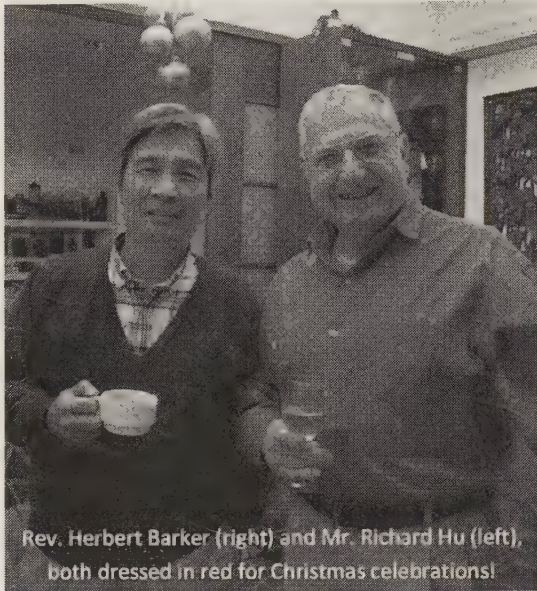
pray for the sharing of the Gospel among the local people.



Good Shepherd English Congregation

Living Out Our Common Life as *Koinonia*

In November, we in the English congregation of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd began a movement toward realizing our common life as *koinonia*. *Koinonia* is the Anglicization of a Greek word (*κοινωνία*) that means “communion by intimate participation”. *Koinonia* is the word used in the New Testament by the early followers of Christ for their community as “church”.



Rev. Herbert Barker (right) and Mr. Richard Hu (left), both dressed in red for Christmas celebrations!

It meant communion with Christ, or fellowship of the believers with the risen Lord. It came to mean that they saw themselves as the Body of Christ in the world. They understood themselves to be in “communion” with Christ in the Eucharist and in fellowship with one another as they lived together sharing their goods in common and living as brothers and sisters, and friends in union with the living Lord by the grace of the Holy Spirit.

We set out, then, to understand ourselves as a community that intimately participates with Christ and with one another, through concrete acts of sharing in liturgy, fellowship, mutual service activities, and through myriad stewardship offerings of our prayers, treasurers, time, and talents.

By this communal understanding, and through common practices we hope to actualize our church vision as a spiritual oasis that creates spiritual grounding for English speaking sojourners in Taiwan. Our aim is to “be and do” *koinonia* [communion by intimate participation] in ways that create belonging, believing, and befriending among members of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, their

friends, and among strangers who pass our way.

These aims became realities in revived awareness and actions among members of our congregation in the past few months. Volunteers stepped forward to share in worship services as lectors, lay readers, fellowship sponsors, acolytes, soloists and ensembles, and as intimate participants in a variety of pro-

grams in Advent and Christmas.

We have had three congregational “gatherings” since October that brought members together to share in fellowship meals and in conversations of our church vision. In Advent we had Sunday fellowship events that included lunch, films, and discussions. The films particularly inspired us: *Joyeux Noel*, *The Nativity Story*, and *A Christmas Carol*. All these films moved us to awareness that we may be transformed personally and corporately. In our conversations, we discovered anew that relationship with the spirit of Jesus during these shared Christmas events create solidarity among us, and opens us to calls of solicitude toward others.

Our *koinonia* was also experienced in Advent at a combined English and Chinese congregational home Christmas gathering of worship and fellowship at the Hung’s home. Jake, Susan, Allen, Archy, and dog, “Lulu” created the space and warmth for special Christmas hospitality to mediate harmony among diverse folks. Through lessons and carols, great food, and in sharing our own cultural stories from our Christmases past, our hearts and



minds were awakened again to the universal message of Christmas. Jesus' birth is indeed glad tidings of great joy that is for all people.

The day before Christmas Eve, with a group of sophomores from Yang Ming High School, I discovered that a local Taiwanese custom could reveal the true meaning of Christmas. We discussed sharing "tang yuan" with family and friends at the Winter Solstice. "Tang Yuan" is a sweet, glutinous rice ball that is to remind folks of the sweetness that comes through unity with family. I realized that the

message of Christmas is that in the darkness of winter, Jesus is revealed as sweetness in the unity of heaven and earth. God and the family of man are reconciled. Now that is sweet!

In the end, the seasons of Advent and Christmas became the occasions for koinonia to become manifest anew. Our Christmas Eve combined English and Chinese worship service was a living reality that we do commune in intimate participation at the Church of the Good Shepherd as a Body of Christ in Shilin. Our liturgy displayed the rich diversity of our community. A Taiwanese, woman priest celebrated. An elder, Anglo male, American priest preached the message of Christmas. Voices from Taiwan, the Commonwealth of Nations, the United Kingdom, the Americas, Europe, South Pacific Islands, the Caribbean, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, and those unknown to us, sang out in koinonia, "Joy, to the world, the Lord is come... Let heaven and nature sing!"

Amen.



ADVENT CHURCH, TAMSUI

Rev Lennon Chang Yuan-Rong 張員榮牧師 Rev. David Chee 徐子賢牧師

Mr. Cheng Chen-Chang 鄭成章傳道

Throughout 2012 Rev. Lennon Chang Yuan-Rung is taking a sabbatical from his role as Rector of Advent Church, but he continues as Chaplain at St. John's University. Rev. David Chee takes on the role of Voluntary Acting Rector for 2012.

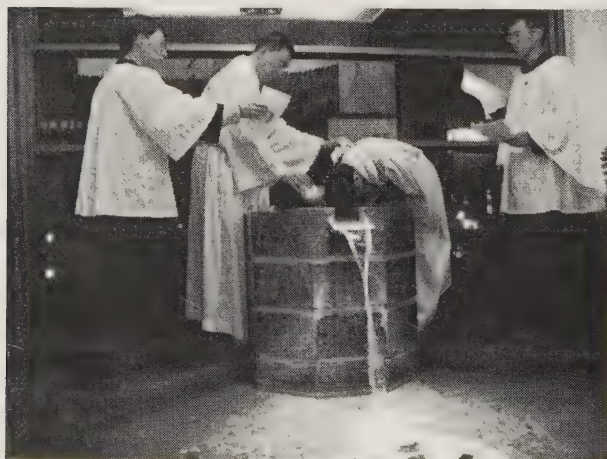
The daughter of Rev. Lennon Chang Yuan-Rung, Emily was married in Advent Church on Christmas Eve (see photo below). She met her husband Harry when both went from Taiwan to Glasgow University for Master's study a few years ago. Congratulations to them both!



On Christmas Eve at 7:00pm we held a Christmas concert in Advent Church featuring several soloists



(see photo above) in voice and flute plus the church choir. Many visitors attended, and after the concert, the Christmas Eve service followed immediately, with 4 baptisms, 1 adult and 3 SJU students. On January 1, 2012, 2 babies were baptized at Advent Church.



Baptism on Christmas Eve

On the morning of Christmas Day, December 25, we held our Sunday School Christmas party at Advent Church, with Christmas Nativity play, food and games. Each child was presented with a sweater designed and made by our Sunday School leader in her family company (see photo top right, next page)



We also had a training course over 2 Sunday afternoons from the chaplain of Mackay Hospital on Visiting the Sick, 15-20 people attended.



Our outreach ministry at Lao-Mei village continues, and on Christmas Day afternoon we held a Christmas party for the local children in the R. C. church building that we have been using for several years. A total of 24 of us gathered for a fun happy time!

Lao-Mei Village Christmas Party



During this past semester we have held many activities and events. Over 2 Saturdays, in cooperation with the local government, we held a special training course in Suicide Prevention. Tamsui area has very high rates of suicide, and this course was ideal for helping us to know how to prevent it. The speakers were psychologists from universities and hospitals. 26 people attended the course.



Suicide Prevention Training Course

ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY, TAMSUI

Chaplain: Rev Lennon Chang Yuan-Rong 張員榮牧師



On December 1 and 2, 2011, St. John's University had its 4-yearly major inspection by the Department of Education. At the time of writing, the report is not yet published.

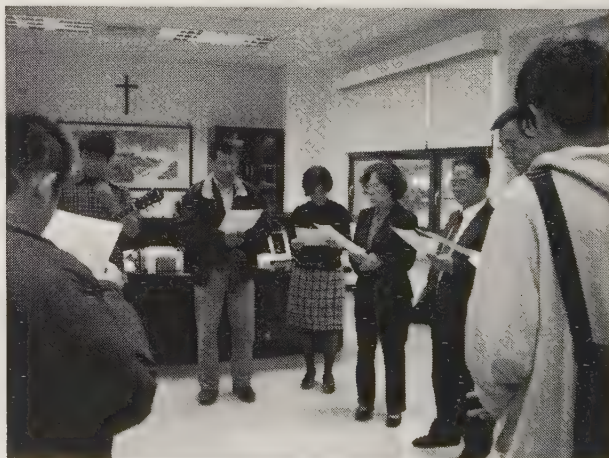
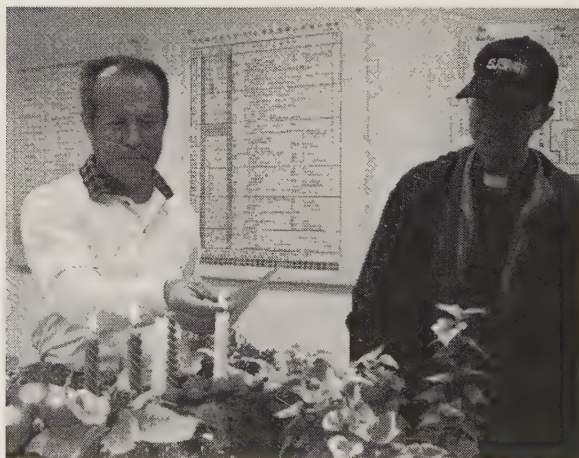
On December 14, 2011, the SJU Chaplaincy organized the annual fund-raising Christmas bazaar. This year the charity selected was the R. C. Good Shepherd Social Welfare Services, which cares for thousands of disadvantaged families, women and children throughout Taiwan. We visited the CEO, Sr. Therese Thong in early December, and a week before the bazaar she came with a team from the organization to share with us about their ministry (see photo above). The bazaar itself was a joint venture involving university students, staff and church members plus local people in the community and

was held at lunch time so that people could buy their lunch at the bazaar (see photo below). Many individual donations were also collected and the total amount raised by the end of December 2011 was NT\$ 300,000! Thanks be to Almighty God, and to all who donated time and money.

One of the Advent traditions at SJU is for the Chaplain and a group from the chaplaincy to visit every main office and department once a week for the 4 weeks throughout Advent to light the candles on the

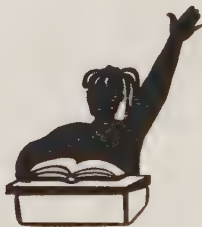
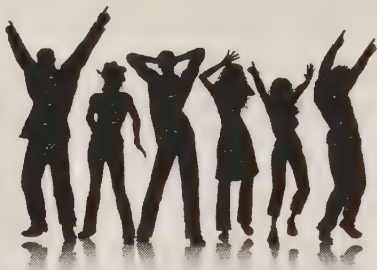
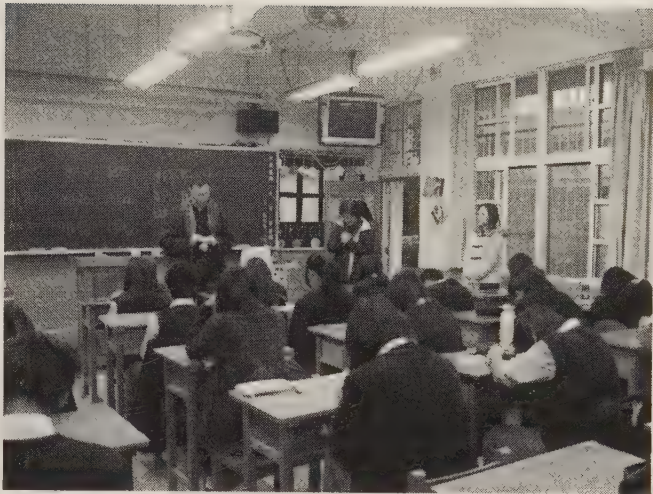


Advent wreath, pray and sing and greet everyone. On the final visit, we also collect candies that are then given out to students in the evening when we go out around the university campus sharing the good news of Christmas (see photos below).



A joint project between St. John's University Chaplaincy and Advent Church is the outreach ministry in the neighboring junior high school.

English conversation classes and Champions Course are run by us in the school, and we also invite the students to come to Advent Church each Saturday for extra classes and homework help, supervised by our students in the student fellowship, followed by the evening youth group.



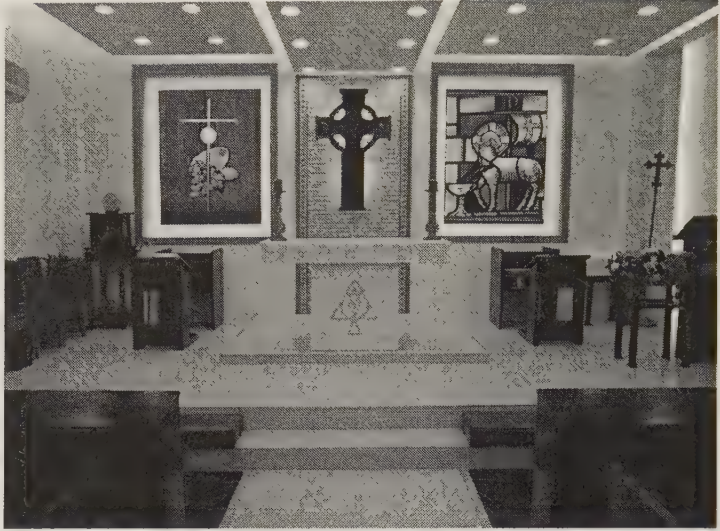
On Tuesday December 20, a group of us went to the school to share the good news of Christmas, singing songs, praying for the children and giving our candies. In the school office we gave an Advent wreath to the school, lit the candles and prayed for the school. In the school coffee bar, after coffee, the school director kindly presented us with a framed picture (the word 'Shen' meaning 'God' written in calligraphy using the Chinese characters from Psalm 23). Thank God for this warm relationship, and we pray for God's blessing in our ministry there. Photos on this page show our visit.



TRINITY CHURCH, KEELUNG

Rev. Richard Lee Ray-Chiang 李瑞強牧師

Trinity Church is rejoicing in our newly remodeled church interior, it makes such a difference! Previously it was quite a dark church, but now there are lights everywhere. The altar has been moved and seats rearranged so that rather than only 60 people being seated, now 80 can be seated. At the back of the church, the outdoor space has been covered with a roof and made into a soundproof L-shaped room with seats, as well as toys and books for small children. The room has a large window so that parents can see and hear the service, but are separate. Photos here show the new look!



On Christmas Day, December 25, a special service of thanksgiving was held for the completion of the building project.

From October 28-30, about 70 people attended the

church 'Family Life' Camp held in Ilan. Children and adults attended, and the speaker was Mrs. Lu, a committed Christian and specialist in family relationships. Over 10 of those who attended were still exploring the Christian faith at the time, and many of them were very moved. This led on to them being baptized at Christmas.



On the evening of Christmas Eve, Bishop Lai attended the service. 12 people were baptized, and a different group of 6 people were confirmed (see bottom photo, left page).

On the afternoon of Christmas Day, we held an evangelistic Christmas celebration for the local community. Over 100 people attended! We sang Christmas carols, danced and shared the Good News with everyone.



We are looking forward to the new semester in February. Our vision for this new year is that all those who attend our Alpha course can get involved in one of our cell groups, and that each cell group can continue to reach out to the newcomers and share the faith with them.



Right photo: The entrance to Trinity Church, note the TV screen that broadcasts Christian Good TV for passers-by and for the neighbors!



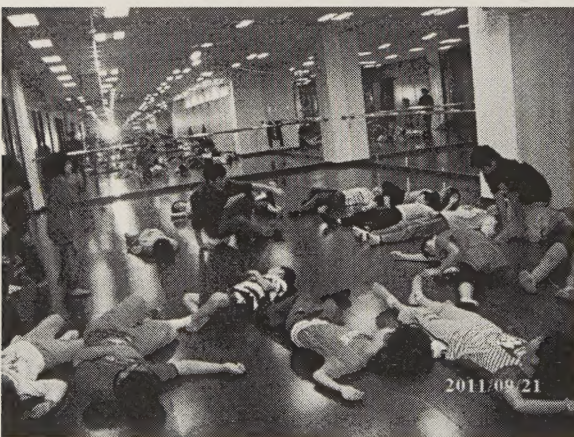
ST. STEPHEN'S MISSION, KEELUNG

Rev. Julia Lin Shu-Hua 林淑華牧師

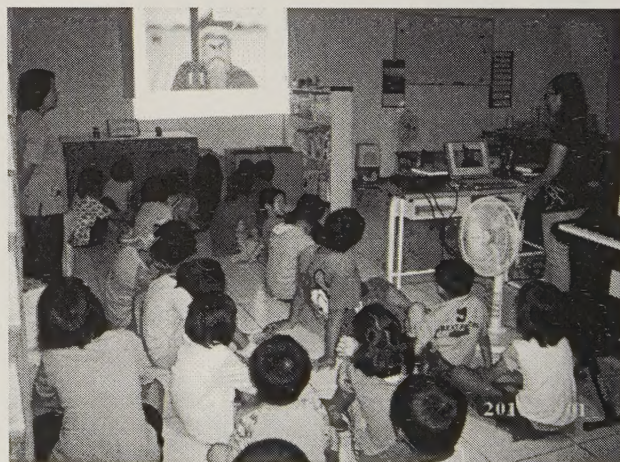


The ministry at St. Stephen's Mission has been developing throughout the years and much of it is devoted to outreach in the local community.

There is also a Bible class and activities for local children, (see photo below). You see that many children come along, and we make the most of our facilities to show them DVDs and stories from the Bible.

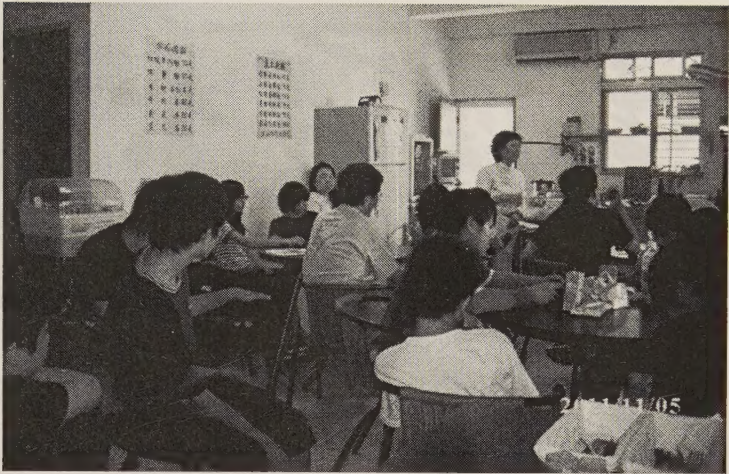


Tutoring classes for the students of elementary school and junior high school is one aspect of the outreach ministry at St. Stephen's Mission. This semester, we have an art class for children (see photo above).



Our Youth Fellowship also meets every Saturday, in the evenings, and once a month we plan to take them out of the mission for a meal. In the right photo, this was our first gathering in the local restaurant.

On December 23, all of us were very busy preparing for Christmas. After the Christmas Performance, we took a photo with local governor (photos below).



We expect to start ministry to the seniors in the local community during this coming year. On January 10, 36 seniors came with us on an outing we arranged to Ilan (see right photo).



Thank you for your continuous prayers, they are very important for us!

臺灣聖公會通訊

TAIWAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH

7 Lane 105, Hang-chow South Road, Section 1, Taipei 100, Taiwan, Republic of China.

發行人：賴榮信

發行者：財團法人臺灣聖公會

會址：台北市杭州南路一段105巷7號

電話：886-2-2341-1265

局版北市誌字第貳壹壹捌號

傳真：886-2-2396-2014

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Year 101, Issue 1

February 2012

雜誌

Friendship Magazine

*The English Language
Newsletter of the Diocese of
Taiwan*

Phone: 886-2-2341-1265

Fax: 886-2-2396-2014

skhtpe@ms12.hinet.net

skh.tpe@msa.hinet.net



The Episcopal
Diocese of Taiwan
The Rt. Rev. David
J. H. Lai,
Bishop of Taiwan

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